

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. PF040010

Date of Office Action: 07/21/2009

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Remarks and Arguments

Claims 1 – 13 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6-8, and 12-13 have been amended to more clearly and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention. No new matter is believed to be added by the present amendment.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 6-8, 12 and 13 have been objected to for the use of the words “despatching” and “despatched.” These claims have been amended to correct this misspelling.

Claims Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 -13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by He, US Pub No. 2006/0155802 (hereinafter “He”). Applicants traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The claimed invention pertains to network configuration discovery. For example, a discovering device configured to operate in accordance with the HAVi protocol over a 1394 bus is joining a network using the IP protocol. The discovering device is configured to have all the autodescription information of the other connected devices in the network. The claimed invention provides a way for the device to obtain this information within the IP protocol. The discovering device engages in a configuration discovery to announce itself to the other already connected devices on the IP network and to request autodescription information corresponding to the other connected devices in the network. The announcement message contains the discovering device’s autodescription information which contains the device’s IP address, a unique global identifier that is different from the IP address, as well as other information. The connected devices respond with their autoconfiguration information.

By contrast, He pertains to dynamic networking among devices that share resources. The system of He contains a node central device that provides node management functions to a group of devices. The devices within the node can request

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to share services from other devices. In addition, devices from other nodes can request to share services. However, the system of He is configured to operate using a common communication and addressing protocol (see paragraph [0146]): "The existing TCP/IP protocol has provided a basic communicating and addressing method for the network devices."

Amended claim 1 is as follows:

1. A method of discovery, by a discovering device capable of connecting to a network, the network having connected devices, comprising the steps of:

connecting the discovering device to the network, wherein the discovering device is configured to communicate with other devices connected to the network via a communications protocol that is different from a protocol used by the network;

upon connection of the discovering device, dispatching, by the discovering device, an announcement message containing autodescription information describing the discovering device destined for all the connected devices;

upon connection of the discovering device, dispatching, by the discovering device, an autodescription information request message to all the connected devices;

receiving, by the discovering device, a response message from each of the connected devices containing autodescription information of the connected devices and sent in response to the autodescription information request message.

The Examiner contends that all the features of amended claim 1 are recited in He. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Amended claim 1 recites the feature of "connecting the discovering device to the network, wherein the discovering device is configured to communicate with other devices connected to the network via a communications protocol that is different from a protocol used by the network." As noted above, the system of He relies on devices using a common communication protocol in order to facilitate the resource sharing. As such, He does not recite this feature.

Amended claim 1 recites the feature of "upon connection of the discovering device, dispatching, by the discovering device, an autodescription information

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request message to all the connected devices." Amended claim 1 also recites the feature of *"receiving, by the discovering device, a response message from each of the connected devices containing autodescription information of the connected devices and sent in response to the autodescription information request message."* These features are not recited in He.

The Examiner cites paragraphs [0118] to [0123] as reciting these features. Applicants respectfully disagree. Paragraph [0118] merely mentions a communication between two nodes (source and destination) related to sending a resource sharing request in order to establish a resource sharing relationship between the two nodes:

"The control device of one node (called a source node control device) can initiate a resource sharing request to the control device of another node (called a destination node control device)."

Once the resource sharing relationship has been established the two nodes can exchange node resource information:

"Only after the two nodes have established the resource sharing relationship, they can exchange node resources information."

The other paragraphs [0119] to [0123] do not recite the autodescription information request message or of receiving a response message in response to the request message. Clearly, these features are not recited in He.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentably distinguishable over He. The remaining independent claims, and the claims that depend on them, recite the above-referenced features and are believed to be patentably distinguishable over He for the same reasons as discussed with respect to amended claim 1.

Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be

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taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

It is believed that there are no additional fees due with regard to the filing of this response. However if there is an additional fee due, please charge the fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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